Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors affecting early identification of pregnant women by community health workers in Morogoro, Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 09 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Mohammad Alyahya

Reviewer's report:

This study is dealing with an interesting issue of Factors affecting early identification of pregnant women by community health workers in Morogoro, Tanzania. Still, some issues in the manuscript should be addressed prior to publication.

Abstract:

Methods: Please provide a bit more details.

Introduction:

Line "63", the authors should rely and cite the latest available evidence (i.e. Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016, page 167). Please see the following new figures and update the manuscript accordingly:

"Antenatal care coverage (ANC): Ninety-eight percent of women who gave birth in the 5 years before the survey received antenatal care from a skilled provider for their most recent birth. Timing and number of ANC visits: Twenty-four percent of pregnant women started antenatal care in their first trimester, and over half (51%) had four or more ANC visits as recommended. These two indicators have improved since the 2010 TDHS".

Line"81" According to prior studies, reasons for women, or families of women, to conceal their pregnancies are often socially motivated; typically involving fear of others' reaction to the pregnancy, and impacted by how far along the pregnancy is. Could you please elaborate a bit more about this important issue. Fear of others' reaction…(give some examples please). As a significant part of the discussion section discussed the trust between pregnant women and CHWs, I do suggest adding few paragraphs about this issue. Currently, there is a poor link between the introduction and discussion sections.

Methods:

Line "98" could you please provide a brief description of the "Jhpiego".

Line"104": Could you please give more details about the following sentence. The sentence is not fully clear. "Where possible, areas where CHWs operate were selected for the purpose of information 105 triangulation and variation in responses".

Please reconsider the followings:

Data were collected in three districts of the Morogoro region.
Within each district, researchers selected two contrasting locations based on accessibility by…

In total, 36 CHWs and 34 RDW participated in the discussions in five selected locations.

Data analysis
- Could you please provide more details about the data analysis.
- All focus group discussions were digitally recorded after obtaining the participants' consent, checked for quality and later transcribed in Kiswahili. Does this mean that the data was collected using a different language. The authors mentioned in the data collection section "three graduate research assistants, who speak fluent Kiswahili, and one 122 researcher/supervisor collected data"

Results:
The total numbers "N" and other numbers appear in Table 1 are different from what the authors mentioned in the manuscript "In total, 36 CHWs and 34 RDW"

Could you please add more findings and quotations about the relationship between CHWs and women and other community members.

Discussion:

Line "255", the authors mentioned that "CHWs reported in focus groups that community members were more likely to be open about their health, including their pregnancies, if they were familiar with the CHW". This is unclear, especially when you go back to the result section, they mentioned the following:
"CHWs identified most pregnant women through other community members. By making frequent household visits, CHWs were able to build relationships within the community. CHWs recounted that these community members would inform CHWs if their neighbors and/or friends were pregnant".

Line"265" to line "272", the authors stated " Rural areas pose a challenge to CHWs, as they often have low population density, resulting in more of the CHWs' time being used to travel between households than in actual visits. In focus groups, CHWs described the difficulties they faced navigating rural roads to get to households in their communities…..". However, nothing in the results section mentioned about this issue.

In "Factors favoring early versus late disclosure or concealment of pregnancy by women to CHW" subsection, could you please discus the results " especially in the first 4 paragraphs", could you please put the findings into the context of the previous research.

Line"323" to "328" the authors mentioned "Several levels of trust were identified in focus groups that impact a woman's decision to disclose her pregnancy early on; starting with community trust, then family trust, and finally the woman's trust of the CHW. On the community level, CHWs reported that trust was often built by positive word-of-mouth. This phenomena is
described by the diffusion of innovations model, where initially a small group of people in a community adopt an innovation, and over time more and more individuals accept it [20].

I don't agree that the Diffusion of Innovation Model could interpret or describe the mentioned phenomena.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal